

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 (Canceled).

2 (Canceled).

1       3 (Currently Amended). ~~An~~ A relay apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 9,  
2       wherein  
3               said ~~common control means comprises~~ window display means ~~for~~  
4       ~~displaying~~ displays various kinds of information about communication,  
5       and common control means further comprises search means for retrieving  
6       communication information about a communication partner from said  
7       database, and  
8               said call control means displays the retrieval result obtained by said  
9       search means on said window display means.

1       4 (Currently Amended). ~~An~~ A relay apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 9,  
2       wherein  
3               said database stores termination propriety condition information set  
4       for each communication partner, and  
5               said ~~common control means further comprises~~ response  
6       determination means ~~for which~~, if during speech communication through  
7       one of the plurality of communication means, an incoming call is received  
8       through another communication means, ~~determining~~ determines the  
9       propriety of responding to the incoming call on the basis of termination  
10      propriety condition information about a communication partner, from said  
11      database, with which the speech communication is being performed.

1       5 (Currently Amended). ~~An~~ A relay apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 9,  
2       wherein said external connection interface means comprises at least one of

3 terminal interface means for interfacing with a terminal and line interface  
4 means for a line.

1 6 (Currently Amended). ~~An~~ A relay apparatus according to claim 5, further  
2 comprising relay means for relaying/connecting said terminal interface  
3 means and said line interface means to said control means.

4 7 (Currently Amended). ~~An~~ A relay apparatus according to claim ~~±~~ 9,  
5 wherein the communication ~~means comprises~~ devices comprise at least  
6 one of a portable terminal and a communication line, and ~~performs~~  
7 perform various kinds of communication.

8 (Canceled).

1 9 (New). A relay apparatus for connection to a plurality of communication  
2 devices including portable terminals, fixed telephone terminals and a  
3 telephone line connected to a telephone network, said relay apparatus  
4 comprising:  
5 an external interface (I/F) section which independently controls  
6 each of the plurality of communication devices and includes separate  
7 interface sections for respective ones of the plurality of communication  
8 devices, and  
9 a common terminal section commonly provided for the respective  
10 ones of the plurality of communication devices connected to the external  
11 I/F section performing multiple kinds of communication including speech  
12 communication, electronic mail communication and image  
13 communication, the common terminal section including a control section  
14 connected to the external I/F section and including a call control section  
15 for controlling various kinds of communication calls, a speech  
16 communication processing section for performing speech communication,  
17 a mail processing section for exchanging electronic mail, an image  
18 processing section for performing image communication, a database

19 management section, and a response determination section,  
20 said common terminal section further including a  
21 transmission/reception section connected to the speech communication  
22 processing section of the communication control section, a database (DB)  
23 connected to the communication control section and managed by the  
24 database management section, a storage section storing programs executed  
25 by the common terminal section, and a window display section, wherein  
26 said call control section performs call control for the respective  
27 ones of the plurality of communication devices on the basis of  
28 specifications set in advance in accordance with types and models of  
29 respective ones of the plurality of communication devices, said DB  
30 commonly performing collective management of communication  
31 information identifying communication partners, said DB having  
32 registered filter settings including limitations on origination and utilization  
33 time, call rejection and call limitations and termination propriety used to  
34 determine whether to respond to a new incoming call from another  
35 communication partner during speech communication, communication  
36 information held in each of said plurality of communication devices being  
37 stored in said DB when each communication device is connected to the  
38 relay apparatus.

1 10 (New). A relay apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said common  
2 terminal section further comprises an image sensing section which senses  
3 an image of the user when image communication is performed using a  
4 moving or still image.

1 11 (New). A relay apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the relay  
2 apparatus is comprised of a main body formed from a rectangular housing  
3 and a lid member openably supported on the main body through a hinge  
4 section which, when the relay apparatus is not in use, is closed onto to the  
5 main body, said window display section being placed on an upper surface  
6 of the main body, said main body further including a plurality of spaces

7       formed therein to at least partially house one or more portable terminals,  
8       said spaces having connectors for connecting said portable terminals to  
9       said external interface (I/F) section.

1       12 (New). A relay apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said main  
2       body is further provided with modular jacks for connecting to a telephone  
3       line and a fixed telephone terminal, said lid member being having keys for  
4       an operation input section arranged on a surface of the lid member which  
5       becomes an upper surface in an open state.

1       13 (New). A relay apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said relay  
2       apparatus is provided with housing means for mounting a plurality of  
3       portable terminals, said mounting means having connectors for connecting  
4       said portable terminals to said external interface (I/F) section, said call  
5       control section detecting a mounting operation of a portable terminal and  
6       receiving communication information stored in the portable terminal and  
7       registering the communication information in said database.

1       14 (New). A relay apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said relay  
2       apparatus is provided with modular jacks for for connecting to a telephone  
3       line and a fixed telephone terminal, said call control section detecting a  
4       connecting operation of a fixed telephone terminal and receiving  
5       communication information stored in the fixed telephone terminal and  
6       registering the communication information in said database.

1       15 (New). A relay apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said  
2       transmission/reception section includes a right earphone, a left earphone  
3       and a microphone, wherein during a first call, when the user responds to a  
4       second incoming call, said speech communication processing section  
5       switches a volume level of speech communication for the first call to a  
6       reduced level in a first one of said right or left earphones and switches  
7       sound of speech communication from said second incoming call to a

8 normal level in a second one of said right or left earphones and switches  
9 said microphone to speech communication mode for the second incoming  
10 call, whereby succeeding speech communication is performed without  
11 disconnecting the first call.

1 16 (New). A relay apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein when the user  
2 performs a switching operation to switch speech to the first call, said  
3 speech communication processing section switches the volume level to a  
4 normal level in the first one of said right or left earphones and the volume  
5 level to a reduced level in the second one of said right or left earphones  
6 and switches said microphone to speech communication mode for the first  
7 call.

1 17 (New). A relay apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein when the user  
2 performs a three-party speech communication operation, said speech  
3 communication processing section restores the volume level in the first  
4 one of said right or left earphones to a normal level and switches said  
5 microphone to speech communication for both the first call and the second  
6 incoming call.